



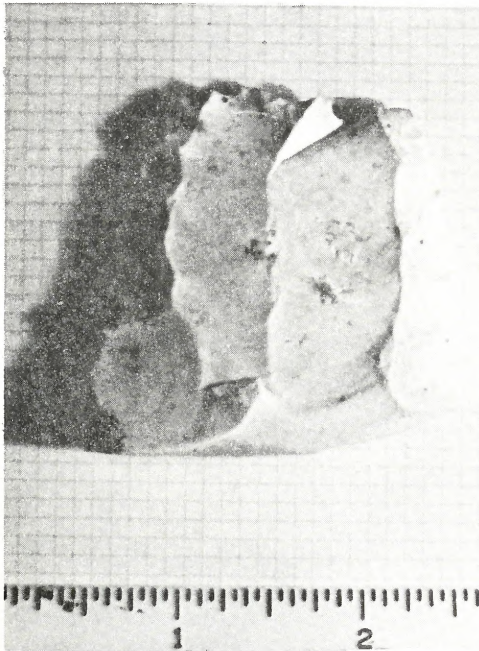
# ELSAH HISTORY

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## Elsah's Oldest Artifact?



The partial projectile point pictured here may well be the oldest artifact known in the Elsah area. It was found in the field west of the Hawthorne Hills subdivision, a part of the Principia College campus, by William Blankenship several years ago.

Its importance was not evident to us until it was shown to Northwestern University archaeologist, Professor Stuart Streuver, who remarked that it was the oldest artifact of those shown him at that time because of the fluting it shows on both sides.

Fluted projectile points are characterized by long channel flakes removed from the centers of the flat sides. This technique is found only on the oldest types of projectile points, those identified as Paleo-Indian, a culture phase that ended around 6,000 B. C. Little re-

mains of these earliest inhabitants of the Illinois area, who moved in as the last glacier receded. Their chert tools include Clovis and Cumberland projectile points, drills, and scrapers. These people knew nothing of the use of the bow and arrow, or of pottery. The projectile points typical of them are found in conjunction with the remains of mastodons, indicating that these primitive people hunted the great mammals. Recent speculation holds the Paleo-Indians as perhaps responsible for the extinction of these native elephants.

The age of this artifact is hard to imagine easily in the context of world history. However, according to the figures offered by scholars, it had already lain in the soil of the Elsah hills longer than it has since then when Abram left Ur of the Chaldees almost 4,000 years ago to found the Hebrew culture. It had been there at least 46 centuries when Tutankhamen, the riches of whose tomb are now on exhibit in the United States, lived in Egypt. That, of course, would be the most recent age we can assign the artifact. It could be much older.

Somehow Elsah seems a much more ancient place of human habitation in the light of such facts.



CUMBERLAND



CLOVIS

The above sketches of typical Cumberland and Clovis points follow examples in volumes 1 and 2 of Robert E. Bell's *GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN AMERICAN INDIAN PROJECTILE POINTS*, part of a series published by the University of Oklahoma. The Elsah artifact is seen apparently to be the basal portion of a fluted point of similar type.

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## The Principia Knob Site: Early Observations

Several years ago, a Principia College student working on a biology project noticed as he examined one of the plowed fields involved in his study area a considerable amount of chert scatter. A student friend, John McKinney, who has since become a lawyer, but who was at the time one of the true antiquarians among the student body, notified the HEF editor, knowing he was interested in archaeological sites.

John poked about the area and came up with some pottery sherds, pieces of chert tools, and a piece of a ground igneous artifact. Another student found two pieces of a celt and a Mississippian projectile point,<sup>1</sup> but found it impossible to part with them, and so spirited them off with him when he left the area.<sup>2</sup>

Subsequently, the editor has reexamined the site whenever conditions were good for it, and has learned, with help, some things about it. Continued field surveys and perhaps the selective excavation of a few features will enhance our knowledge of what is apparently an early Jersey Bluff village site.<sup>3</sup>

Located in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 16, township 6 north, range 11 west, this site was well chosen by its primitive inhabitants. Of course, it is hard to tell what the topography was like at the time, but surely the 671 foot knob

that lies north of the site was there. Now the area is flanked on the east and west by gullies with intermittent water in them. These flow together below the site into a small stream that always contains water.

Apparently this site was inhabited in the Late Woodland Period, a culture phase that lasted from 700 or 800 A. D. to 1200 or 1300 A. D. All the pottery rims found at the site are notched, indicating that it was occupied during the early portion of this period.

The pottery sherds, of which there are a great many, are all grit tempered. This too is characteristic of Late Woodland work. The later pottery of the Mississippian culture that built the large urban complex around Monk's Mount, east of East St. Louis, was tempered with mussel shells. The pottery at the Principia Knob site is also cord-marked. No other decoration has been found on it.<sup>4</sup> It varies greatly in thickness, and in color ranges from light tan through gray to pink. The inside curves of the pots tend to be blackened. Assumedly they were pointed on the bottom, as is characteristic of the type, but since almost all the sherds are small, owing to the persistent plowing of the site, it is hard to tell much about the overall shape of the pots.

Three hoes have been found at the site, those also characteristic of Jersey Bluff sites. According to Professor



Sherds of typical cord marked pottery from the Principia Knob Site. Most pieces found are this small or smaller, owing to the fact that the site has been farmed for at least forty years. The largest piece pictured is the largest yet taken from the site. Recognizing the pottery fragments

is difficult, and is most easily done in the spring, when winter rains have had time to expose them and at times erosion has placed them up on small pedestals above the level of the surrounding soil.



Three similar hoe blades taken from the Principia Knob Site. None is very well used, as they have not acquired

much of the glass-like sheen on their tips that comes from the polishing action of the soil.



Streuver, who visited the site several years ago, it was probably a slash-and-burn agriculture site.

One fire pit is evident in the field. No mussel shells have been found, perhaps because of the considerable distance from the river and the intervening high bluff. Scrapers, cores, core tools, hammer stones, retouched chert flakes, and a few projectile points, mostly fragmentary, constitute the rest of the artifacts from the site.

Pottery sherds are scattered over an area of several acres. The projectile points include some very small ones. One, without notching, is of a type pictured in ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGY, bulletin No. 1 of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, as characteristic of the late phase of Late Woodland (see figure 6, p. 28).

If the site is, as seems quite evident, a village site excavation would show evidence of houses, rectangular in shape, evidenced by the dark stained post molds in the lighter surrounding soil. These were thatched and mat covered.

The Jersey Bluff culture built the small burial mound that are frequent features of the bluffs in the Elsay area. Where the people that inhabited the Principia Knob site buried their dead is not known. The near prominence of the knob is suggestive, and the slopes of that hill show, here and there, the sorts of limestone slabs that the Jersey Bluff Indians placed on their burials. But the sorts of low mounds that project from the slopes of hills that one associates with the Jersey Bluff Indians are not at all evident on the Knob. This is one of the many remaining unanswered questions about the site.

The above report is not meant to be an invitation to hunt the site for private finds. Indeed, it is not so rich an area that that would be rewarding anyway. We hope

that all materials taken from this site will be identified and preserved and included in the Principia College collection so that future archaeologists will be able to have them for study.

#### ENDNOTES:

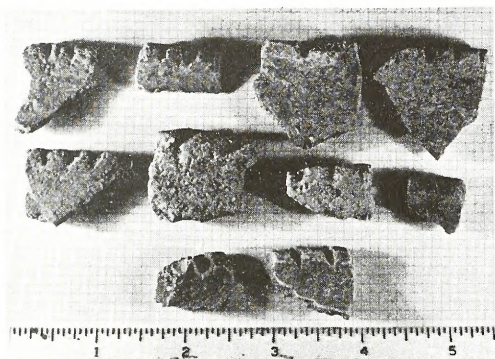
1. The Mississippian point, like those common to the area of the Cahokia mound group, seems to have been a later intrusion into the site, because nothing else characteristic of Mississippian culture has been found there.

2. The incident mentioned, of transients or personal collectors removing materials from the site, to keep them as curios, or to sell them to distant buyers, has been a problem in all archaeology since it began. Once an artifact is separated from its context, its ability to convey information about a site or a group of people who once lived there has been destroyed. While it demands some generosity on the part of the collector for him to see that his finds reach the hands of archaeologists, or that archaeologists be allowed to examine them, or that they become a part of a scholarly collection that will be used for information, this is the only way we will learn more of early man in the area. Collection for sale, or mere removal from the area, does not differ substantially from vandalism.

On the other hand, the careful amateur collector is a boon to archaeology. It was an amateur collector, Mr. Harlan Helton, who encouraged Professor Streuver to examine the Koster site near Eldred, Illinois. This site has since become one of the most important ever excavated in the United States, and continues to be the most extensive and ambitious project in American Indian archaeology today.

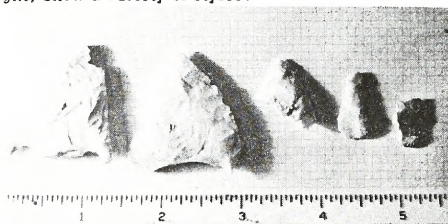
3. Pioneering investigations in Jersey Bluff archaeology in this area were done by P. F. Titterington and published in an article, "Certain Bluff Mounds of Western Jersey County, Illinois," *AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES*, 1 (July 1935), 6-46. This richly illustrated article largely represents work done in the Grafton, Nutwood, and Otter Creek areas.

4. Cord marking was done by impressing the marks of lengths of twisted cord on the surface of the pot while it was still wet, before firing. While Jersey Bluff pottery is not richly decorated, a few patterns, especially around the rims, are found. The current issue of *EARLY MAN*, published by the Institute for Illinois Archaeology, includes an article about a thunderbird motif found on a pottery rim sherd "west of Alton," or, in other words, in our area. This rim includes notching similar to that on pots found at the Principia Knob Site.



Ten examples of notched pottery rim sherds from the Principia Knob Site. All are small, and all show variations of the same decorative motif.

Five projectile points, all broken but the second to the right, show a variety of styles.



Oval scraper from the Principia Knob Site.

## Ross DeSherlia, Grafton Fisherman

[Like most small river towns, Elsie had its commercial fishermen, but since the untimely passing of Dick Lux, who lived in a small frame building by the water opposite the Elsie quarry, Elsie has had no one who made his livelihood on the river.

However, fishing does survive along the river, especially at Grafton, which has long been the most important fishing town in the area. The Elsie fishing experience now has to be learned of by reference to that at Grafton, and because of this, Helen-Chantal Pike has visited Mr. and Mrs. Ross DeSherlia, of Grafton, to learn of Mr. DeSherlia's many years of fishing work on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. HEF wishes to thank Mr. DeSherlia for his generous cooperation in producing this article.]

by Helen-Chantal Pike

"We private fishermen like to make our own nets to see how we can improve on factory-made ones," Ross DeSherlia chuckled.

At 74, DeSherlia has observed the improvements in commercial fishing equipment on the Mississippi for many years. Living in the once-thriving fishing town of Grafton, Illinois, he has also seen the ups and downs of commercial fishing for nearly three-quarters of a century.

Today, much of his effort goes not into fishing, but into making fishing equipment, which he does with the expertise of long experience.

"There are a lot of things that go into making a net that a lot of people don't realize," he said. "Right now I'm hanging a trammel net. I'm not knitting from scratch. What I mean is, I'm putting one together. I've got the rope, and the corks and leads, and I got the webbing--what most folks think is the net. But it isn't. The net is everything hung together. Here, let me show you."

Leading me down to his basement, DeSherlia showed me two black nylon ropes, a few feet apart, stretched from opposite cellar walls. Red, three-inch plastic corks were strung along on the upper rope. On the lower one were one-and-a-half inch lead weights.



"You see," DeSherlia explained, "the rope with the corks will float on the water. The one with the leads will stay down in the water, so the net will hang in the water like a wall to catch the fish."

Against one cellar wall and under the nylon ropes was a brown shipping carton full of white nylon webbing.

"Now, you see," he went on, "I'm going to take the webbing and 'mesh' it to the nylon ropes. When I say 'mesh,' I mean knit the webbing to the rope. This whole process of meshing the webbing and adding the corks is called hanging a net."

"I knit mine loose. There are five meshes and three corks, and five meshes and three leads to every eighteen inches. On factory-made nets the meshes are too close together, so when the rope stretches out, the meshes don't. That makes the net bunch up and get tangled, and then you don't catch anything."

"Forty years ago," he reminisced, "I used to knit with cotton. It was the cheapest twine you could buy. I loved to knit with it, but it just didn't last. Every time you'd take it out to dry, it would frazzle and wear out. In two weeks it was completely worn out. It wasn't too popular, I'll tell you that!"

"Then linen nets came out. It took about the same time to knit them as cotton--about a week--but they would fuzz



Mr. DeSherlia shows how a fish swims into the trammel net. When he turns to swim back, he is caught in a pocket of limp netting formed by its movement through the taut large netting called the walling.

out, and when you'd hang 'em up to dry, they would blow away."

"I tell you they really found something when they invented nylon. When it came out we thought it was the best stuff we'd ever seen in our lives. It has more strength. Why, I've got a nylon net that's ten years old. The only thing is, the stuff is hard to knit with. It isn't worth it to me to knit whole nets out of nylon."

A net-knitter would begin his work with a needle of specific size, a flat, wooden block two inches long, and twine. The blocks come in varying widths. The wider the block is, the wider the diamond pattern in the webbing. Knitting is begun with one loop and knot (mesh) around the block. Subsequent knots around the loop are placed so as to define the diamond pattern. More knots and loops are knitted on and the webbing grows.

Ross DeSherlia claims to have retired from commercial fishing. But he keeps busy hanging and walling nets for those who ask.

"This here's a trammel net I'm going to start hanging. It's the most popular kind because it catches the most fish," DeSherlia explained. "It costs \$100 for material and \$35 for hanging it. Hanging only takes about five hours."

A size-eight needle is used. Narrow, flat, and pointed at each end, the needle is about five inches long. At one time needles were wooden, but now they are mostly plastic. The twine is wrapped around a spindle carved out of the center of the needle.

"I put walling around the webbing at the same time I'm knitting it. Hanging and walling about six hours a day, you need a good week to get a hundred yards of netting done," remarked DeSherlia.

Walling is a nylon layer knitted on either side of the webbing. It acts as a trap. The meshes are farther apart and therefore larger than the webbing. The fish go into the net one way. Partially caught in the webbing, the fish try to get out the way they got in. Instead they get trapped in the walling.

As DeSherlia says, "Walled nets catch plumb full of fish--easily a hundred pounds!"

Nylon will wear down, however, from use and continual retarring. DeSherlia can patch a hundred foot net in one hour. Nonetheless he advises those who don't understand patching to buy new netting because the loss of fish due to a poor job of patching can be great.

Ready-made factory nets are tarred to preserve them against water pollution, but one can find individual fishermen who tar or "dip" their own nets. DeSherlia and two other commercial fishermen in Grafton are ones who still do this.

"You see, you dip your nets and make 'em slick, and that way the dirt doesn't stick to them," he winked. "Some guys will tell you they dye their nets, too, to fool the fish."

"Years ago, the nets had to be dried and redipped every two weeks. Each guy would try to out-do the other fellow in dipping nets properly. If the nets were tarred too thick, they'd stack up high in the boat instead of lying flat. Then, too, if the tar was too thick the cotton or linen would burn right out."

"Out back I've got a dip vat. A kind of oil is mixed half and half with gasoline. That's your dip. Then you heat it in the tub till it boils. The gasoline evaporates. You put the net in and let it soak for a few minutes. When you take it out, it's dipped, or tarred. You can't leave ny-



lon in for too long, though, because it will shrink or burn.

Trammel nets are not the only fishing equipment Ross DeSherlia improves upon.

"I make my own turtle traps, too," remarked the fisherman. "The regular turtle traps come round, and they're easier to make round, but they roll around on the bottom. You get three or four snappers in there and they start climbing over each other, and pretty soon the trap starts to get loose and roll away."

Round turtle traps are three parallel hoops which are a framework for the webbing. The entrance is in the first hoop. The trap is knitted closed after the third hoop. Snapping turtles, then, have to come out the way they went in, which, according to DeSherlia, is no easy trick to do.

Ross DeSherlia's turtle trap was patented earlier this year. It is made with three eighteen by twenty-eight inch squared hoops. Into the first hoop is a cone-shaped entrance with the circumference of the meshes getting smaller as the cone goes further into the net. There is a give to the meshes, but once the turtle gets through this cone, he can't get back out.

"I make mine rectangular so they won't roll. Actually," he admitted, "they come from spring steel round traps, and all I do is bend them to the shape I want."



Mr. DeSherlia spreads out for inspection the rectangular turtle trap he designed himself.

"Then I knit my end out past the last hoop and tie it closed with a drawstring. This way, with the string, I can unloose it and the snapper will come out there into a garbage can. Then I slam the lid down on him." He chuckled, "If you aren't careful getting him in the can, the snapper will run you out of the boat."

The height of turtle season is June through August. Snappers bring \$2.50 a pound, a sum which DeSherlia considers good money. He feels four hundred pounds of turtle in one day is a good catch. Sold to area markets, snapping turtles are fried or made into soup or mulligan stew.



DeSherlia also described the special way he makes dip nets. "I knit with a metal ring in the bottom of the net which acts as a weight so the fish won't flop out so easy when you're drawing 'em in. I start knitting from the ring upward to the rim of the dip net. I double-selvaage around the rim to make it nice and tight."

DeSherlia held up two dip nets the frames and original factory netting for which could be bought in a store for two dollars apiece. "I made these for a fellow who paid ten dollars for two of them--they are worth that much to him," he smiled.

"You know, there aren't many of us who knit nets any more. But some of the sport fishermen in town are starting to take it up after they've watched us do it."

Ironically, perhaps, it is these sport fishermen, or part-time fishermen as Ross DeSherlia calls them, who are making competition for the commercial fishermen.

"These guys are fishing for sport. They've already made their money at another job. They've got the best nets, boats, and motors money can buy."

"There are more part-timers than commercial fishermen. The commercial men have to compete with the part-

timers for the same fish, and of course those with the better equipment are going to catch more. The guys that do it for sport come up on weekends or on their vacations and take a lot of fish."

The small quantity of fish remaining available keenly affects the competition, too.

"We've got to put up with all the pollution and garbage in the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. The water's been so low that the current can't carry it away. So it just sits there in the river. Well, fish can't spawn in the garbage," said DeSherlia.

"I think it would be good to put a new dam across the river," he added. "It would raise the water level and bring in more fish. Then they could spawn in the deeper water. A lot of the river trade here has died off because of the pollution and low water."

"It used to be that you could go anywhere and catch a boat load of fish and sell them. Grafton was once the busiest fishing center on the Mississippi. We've still got three large fish markets here in Grafton. They pay what we call a fisherman's price. Live buffalo go for twenty-five cents a pound and carp go for ten cents a pound. They are the two most popular and abundant fish here. We also catch a lot of crappie, catfish, and some bass."

"Now that I'm retired I don't have to get up so early in the morning. I can fish when I want to. And when the duck season opens, I go out and hunt ducks. When I'm not doing that I'm knitting nets, or," he winked again, telling stories." He was particularly kind and generous in telling stories of his trade, one of Grafton's oldest, now changing, as so many things are, with the pressures of the times.



## The Elsah Quarry

The First Years of the Elsah Quarry: Reports from the JERSEY COUNTY DEMOCRAT

by Cynthia Bunting

Just after the turn of the century and in step with American industrialism of the time, Elsah became involved in a largely local industry. The village's first twentieth century industry got underway when eight acres of land between the mill and warehouses of the Elsah waterfront was bought for a whiting factory by "St. Louis parties." The purpose of the proposed factory was to produce a chalky white powdered substance used extensively as white pigment in putty, mouldings, and paint. Because of the seemingly inexhaustible supply of limestone in the bluffs, the Elsah area was a logical place for a whiting enterprise.

Twenty men were to be employed at the inception of the factory, with hopes for increasing that number to one hundred men over the years. The cost of the factory was estimated at between \$20,000 and \$30,000. And even when only in its conceptual state, the proposed local industry was predicted to become "quite a boom for Elsah." Its cost was felt to be justified. 1

There is no further mention of the whiting mill in the JERSEY COUNTY DEMOCRAT until 1904. Perhaps in 1902

plans for the factory were too sketchy to be generally newsworthy. We know that in 1903 Elsah and the entire Mississippi-Missouri-Illinois river valley system experienced and were preoccupied with the highest flooding since 1858. In the spring of 1903 the Missouri broke across the flatlands into the Mississippi and "flowed up" the Illinois.

Construction of the whiting factory was begun in late 1903 or early 1904. Elsah's gossip columnist, who signed himself "Crusher," mentioned in the May 12, 1904 JERSEY COUNTY DEMOCRAT that a Mr. Grace had been in Elsah supervising the construction of the "Whitening plant" and reiterated the pride Elsah people felt because of their future industry: "Elsah has been said to be asleep by her neighboring towns the past few years; but by the first of June the Elsahites expect to show them a thing or two. When our factory starts up don't worry, we'll not nap any longer. . . . the Western Whiting Company [sic] is causing Elsah to be quite a booming little town."

By May 19, 1904, the factory walls were standing. The mill's owners were thinking about adding 150 feet to their already 300 foot long structure. On July 14 the DEMOCRAT reported that the roof was on the factory and that all was ready for machinery. Another reference was made by "Crusher" about the excitement in Elsah. No disappointment is apparent in newspaper accounts though showing neighboring villagers a thing or two had taken longer than expected.

Elsah began to show others the "very fine" quality of her limestone when the whiting factory began operating on Thursday, September 1, 1904, under the supervision of Alexander Marshall, General Manager. It ran one mill and employed twenty-five men. Expected soon were the additions of three more mills in the same building and forty to fifty more men. Also planned for the near future were an electric light plant and an all-night crew. The phenomenon of American industrial expansion was even reaching Elsah.

Christmas time generosity was displayed by the Western Whiting and Manufacturing Company that first productive year when each married employee was given a turkey and each bachelor some cigars. This generosity was to become a tradition, even though the whiting plant habitually laid its employees off for the coldest winter months. On June 15, 1905, the JERSEY COUNTY DEMOCRAT reported that the Western Whiting Company had enabled Elsah to replace gravel walks that villagers had complained of as shoe destroyers in 1904 with "new concrete sidewalks." 2

The "Elsah Whiting Co." must have been flourishing because a new office building was completed in late December of 1905 or early January of 1906 for that company. Prosperity is also evident in the increased payroll. Forty-five men were then employed by the factory, and electric lights and even more men and machinery were expected "in the spring." At Christmas, the mill again played Santa Claus, following its tradition.

While there is no evidence of the aforementioned expansion in the spring of 1906, the April 11, 1907 DEMOCRAT notes more contemplation by the factory's owners on that subject. Mr. W. K. Bixby, St. Louis president of the whiting company, vacationed with his family at Elsah in August. 3 Such a vacation is suggestive of on-



site research.

On June 4, 1908, the boss of the Western Whiting Company, Alex Marshall, was reported by the DEMOCRAT to be conducting experiments based on the hypothesis that "carbon may be burned wherever it exists if the proper method of burning is discovered." He began his experimentation with limestone rock common to Elsie's landscape because it contained "a large percentage of carbon in the form of carbonate of lime" in the furnaces underneath the whiting plant boilers.

Scientists other than Mr. Marshall had said that lime carbonate could produce a gas that could be used to fire "specially constructed furnaces," but Marshall contended that "no special construction is necessary to burn lime and coal together in big furnaces." The following procedure was used in experimentation: "A layer of coal put in, then a layer of the rock, broken into ordinary macadam size. A layer of coal was put on top of this and the fire started. . . the proportion . . . by bulk, about half and half of coal and limestone. There are no clinkers, the fire needs no poking and an intense heat is generated."

Also mentioned is the fact that Alex Marshall was waiting for some testing apparatus to determine what gases were given off as well as what the cost of this new kind of heat generation was. His goal was then as it probably would be today: to save on coal bills, which were expensive due to the "difficult coal problem." This seemed to him feasible because limestone rock was purportedly less expensive than coal, limestone being found in "inexhaustible quantities" in the Elsie area bluffs. However, since we hear no more of this experimentation, we can conclude that its results were in failure.

Of course they would have to be. The carbon in  $\text{CaCO}_3$  was already fully oxidized, hence impervious to any attempts to use it as a fuel.

While this elaborate gesture of amateur chemistry failed, the whiting company, under Alex Marshall's supervision, continued to be the economic mainstay of Elsie until 1928.

#### ENDNOTES:

1. This first information about the "Whitening" mill is found in the JERSEY COUNTY DEMOCRAT of April 11, 1901.
2. Some of the concrete sidewalks installed at that time are still in use in Elsie, though more are being replaced nearly every year lately.
3. Mr. Bixby was a patron of the artist, Frederick Oakes Sylvester, whose summer cottage stood on the bluffs above the quarry. Bixby had helped to finance a trip by Sylvester to Europe the previous summer.

On December 23, 1976, the Elsie firefighters played host to the local children at their annual Christmas party in the Elsie Civic Center. As usual, Assistant Chief Barnes (Claus) arrived on the fire truck, accompanied by sirens and lights, and bringing bags of treats for the children. Tom Holzberlein, with his daughter Marilyn, entertained the children and led the carol singing. The party proved to be one of the most successful yet.

HEF welcomes information concerning archaeological sites in the area, or concerning interesting artifacts found. We would like to serve as a gathering place and clearing house for information on local archaeological resources.

## publications

HEF has a small supply of publications that frequently come into demand. Below is a listing of available materials:

ELSAH HISTORY: Numbers 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 are available at 25 cents each, plus 15 cents postage, if it is needed.

#### LEAFLETS:

#1 THE MAYBECK PILOT at 25 cents, plus 15 cents postage. This publication outlines the designing and building of the Principia College campus by famous California architect, Bernard Maybeck.

#2 ELSAH CITIZENS at 50 cents, plus 20 cents postage. This publication is chiefly of interest to local genealogists. It consists of listings of 19th century Elsie citizens, including a complete roster of the stones in the Elsie graveyard. This has proved to be one of the most useful research tools HEF has developed.

#3 ELSAH BLUFF PRAIRIES, by Marilyn Bland, at 75 cents, plus 20 cents postage. This study of the unique ecosystems of the bluff prairies in the Elsie area is both scientifically accurate and fascinating.

#4 THE GREAT RIVER: MASTER SCULPTOR, by Percival Robertson, at \$1.50, postpaid. Professor Emeritus Robertson examines the geology of the Elsie area and its fossil remains. Included is a key to the various formations one encounters in a drive on the River Road from Alton to Pere Marquette State Park.

#5 CHAUTAUQUA, ILLINOIS, A BRIEF HISTORY, by William Fabian, at \$2, postpaid. This is the most comprehensive history ever done of our neighboring community of Chautauqua.

ELSAH: A HISTORIC GUIDEBOOK, 3rd edition, by Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., and Paul O. Williams. This guide to buildings and history of Elsie was awarded a certificate of commendation by the American Association for State and Local History and has long been an aid to visitors to Elsie. Copies have been sent to almost all the states and some far regions of the world. So far it is the most comprehensive history of Elsie.

#### OTHER ITEMS:

Postcards of Riverview House, with the old road entrance, at 10 cents each, plus postage, unless sent with other items.

Sylvester souvenir, showing a full-color reproduction of a F. O. Sylvester riverscape with information inside, at 25 cents, plus 10 cents postage.

Notepaper: A fine Elsie composite scene on 5 different pastel note folders with matching envelopes. A good gift, or a good stationery for short notes to friends. \$1.25, plus postage if necessary.